

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 28, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVANS made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Nathaniel Champe, heir of Sergeant Major John Champe, have considered the same, and submit the following report :

The history and public services of Sergeant Major Champe, of Lee's legion, during the revolutionary war, are well known. The attempt to seize Arnold, after his treason, which was planned by Washington and Lee, and the execution entrusted to Champe, would, if it had been successfully executed, have been one of the most romantic events of the revolution. But his merit was not the less because it failed, as the failure resulted from causes unforeseen and not anticipated. To what extent Champe was remunerated pecuniarily does not appear. It is probable that the promises of Washington were performed. Unless he was rewarded by Washington, there is no evidence that he received any reward in his lifetime. He has been dead half a century, and his descendants are numerous and said to be poor; and if no provision had ever been made for them, the case presents facts which would bring it within the principles adopted in other cases. But it appears that by an act approved July 7, 1838, the widow of Sergeant Champe was allowed a pension for life, commencing from the 4th day of March, 1831, at the rate of \$120 a year. By dating the pension back to 1831, she received \$840, besides what accrued afterwards. It also appears that, by an act approved the 3d day of March, 1847, there was allowed to his heirs the commutation pay of an ensign for five years, amounting to \$1,200, thus allowing to his heirs, as a compensation for his gallant conduct, what he himself was never legally entitled to, as the resolution of October 21, 1780, and the commutation resolve of 1783, included only commissioned officers.

Your committee are therefore of opinion that all has been done for the heirs of Sergeant Major Champe which can reasonably be asked for, and recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be refused.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 25, 1855.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Evans made the following

REPORT

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Benjamin Thompson, late of Vermont, and signed the following report:

The history and public services of Benjamin Thompson, of New Hampshire, during the revolutionary war, are well known. He was a bold and active soldier, and his services to the cause of the Revolution were of the most valuable character. He was one of the first to take up arms against the British, and his conduct during the war was marked by the most gallant and patriotic spirit. He was killed at the battle of Bennington, on September 3, 1777, and his death was a great loss to the American cause. His widow, Mary Thompson, has since that time supported her family on her own resources, and has never received any compensation for the services of her husband. She is now an advanced age, and her health is failing. She has no other means of support, and she is in great need of assistance. The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, in consideration of her case, have the honor to report that they are in favor of granting her a pension of \$100 per annum, to be paid to her for the remainder of her life. This pension is recommended as a just and equitable compensation for the services of her husband, and as a means of relieving her from the want of support. The Committee also recommends that the prayer of the petitioner be granted, and that she be allowed to receive the pension from the date of her husband's death, on September 3, 1777. The Committee further recommends that the pension be paid to her in advance, for the next six months, to enable her to meet her immediate needs. The Committee believes that this course is the most equitable and just one, and they respectfully recommend it to the Senate.